

Shortage of pilots with IA and AI

576. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pilots who have left Indian Airlines/Air India for the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines/Air India are facing shortage of pilots;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not appointing more pilots; and
- (d) what steps are taken by Government to solve this problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A total of 7 and 10 pilots have left Air India and Indian Airlines respectively during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines is not facing any shortage of pilots whereas shortage exists in case of Air India. Air India is in the process of recruiting additional pilots to fill up the vacancies within the country as well as from the international market.

(d) Government have taken following measures to cope up with the shortage of pilots in general viz. (1) pilots are permitted to fly beyond the age of 58 years till 65 years of age under certain conditions; (ii) Plans to increase the number of pilot pupils from 40 to 100 at IGRUA, (iii) a National Institute of Flying Training is proposed to be set up at Gondia, Maharashtra and (iv) type rated foreign pilots are permitted to operate aircraft. Besides, Air India is also recruiting about 150 Graduates in Science or Engineering as Cadet Pilots.

Recommendations of Paul Committee on Air Traffic Management

577. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has been handed over a list of far reaching measures by the Roy Paul Committee on air traffic management to tackle the worsening congestion of flights over Delhi and Mumbai airports that include getting the IAF station at Palam shifted to Hindon and freeing the space for commercial flights at Delhi;

(b) whether the former Civil Aviation Secretary and member of Naresh Chandra Committee has drawn up an action plan to decongest the skies by at least 20-30 per cent at both airports; and

(c) if so, how many recommendations of the Committee has been implemented or are under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Roy Paul Committee on "Air Traffic Management Capacity" has recommended Action Plan, which *inter alia* include shifting of Indian Airforce (IAF) operations out of Palam to Hindon.

(b) The Roy Paul Committee has made certain suggestions to decongest the air traffic and enhance the air traffic capacity at both airports.

(c) The recommendations have been categorized into short, medium and long term measures. Short term measures have been implemented. Out of eight medium term measures five have been implemented and three are under implementation. Most of long-term measures are under implementation.

Private airlines in international services

578. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the criteria of allowing certain private airliners to operate international flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): As per the existing guidelines, all the Scheduled Indian carriers having continuous operations of at least 5 years in the domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are eligible to operate on international routes.

Improvement of air services in Sikkim

579. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA :Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special scheme has been chalked out by Government to improve the air service in the North Eastern Region particularly in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent or likely to be spent by Government for implementation of the said scheme?